



## 'Bucket list': White House garden tours prune a U.S. divide



Lauren Serpe, back left, and Rashida Holman-Jones pose for photos with their kids from left, Zynn Jones, Sydney Serpe, and Zuri Jones, during the White House Fall Garden Tour in Washington, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022.

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There were the young women in fresh fall coats, a guy in a suit, hooded parents with kids, all maneuvering for selfies with the White House south facade. The plant fans and

the history fans leaned in to admire the perennials and centuries-old trees on the lawns where Commander the dog lolls and Marine One the helicopter lands.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

## Prime minister appealed for joint attention for the crisis in Venezuela



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## 'Bucket list': White House garden tours prune a U.S. divide



Visitors line the South Lawn during the White House Fall Garden Tour in Washington, Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022. Associated Press

### Continued from Front

Again and again, Secret Service agents rose to the challenge of the White House fall garden tour over the weekend, open to all comers with a free ticket: "Off the grass!" one agent in black uniform shouted, squaring his shoulders, not for the first time, not for the last. A straying visitor hopped back on the path. An estimated 30,000 people in all strolled through the White House's black metal gates on Saturday and Sunday, as the red-uniformed Marine Band, overlooking the South Lawn, played everyone through. With some of the most formidable of temporary security fencing down and pandemic restrictions eased, the tours on a not-rainy weekend were a throwback to the White House's early days, when there were fewer restrictions on access to the People's House. For a weekend, the tour sheared off some of the distance between the nation's executive and a curious, divided public. The annual fall and spring

tours open the gates on gardens more than 200 years old — the oldest continually maintained landscape in the United States, says the National Park Service. "It's sort of a bucket list thing to check off," said Ryan Harrison, 29. He and wife Lindsey Harrison, 30, came hours early from their Washington home to be in line at 7:07 a.m. Saturday. They wanted to see the Rose Garden, and maybe more. "There's a chance the president will walk out and say hello," she said. President Joe Biden, in fact, was at his home in Delaware. There were limits to the hospitality: Grounds crews wheeled out evergreens in containers to block the path of a garden in the back, where the palm prints of grandkids and paw prints of pets offer a glimpse of the lives of the White House residents. The human occupants weren't on hand, but the bees in the beehives were, scouting out head-high orange marigolds in the flourishing, blooming patch that hosts the kitchen

vegetable garden started by Michelle Obama and the cutting-flower garden started by Jill Biden. John Adams is credited with preparing ground for the first White House vegetable garden, although a reelection loss meant he left before the 1801 spring planting season, historians say. He hired white and Black workers during his time as president, although the White House Historical Association notes that other presidents brought Black people they held in slavery to work as gardeners. The current head groundskeeper is Dale Haney, who was honored by the Bidens last week for his 50 years of service at the White House. In the minutes when the tour areas were open to journalists on the weekend but not yet the public at large, one gardener hauled off a last cart of limbs and leaves. Another tidied up with what appeared to be a battery-powered leaf blower (an aha moment for gardeners in these days of controversy over gasoline-powered ones). Public access to the White

House grounds may have hit its apogee in 1837, when Andrew Jackson celebrated George Washington's birthday by throwing open the White House doors to all — men and boys in frock coats and straw hats, women and girls in bonnets — who wanted a share of a donated 1,400-pound (635-kilogram) cheese. "For hours did a crowd of men, women and boys hack at the cheese, many taking large hunks of it away with them," a journalist from the time wrote. "Nothing else was talked about at Washington that day." World War II, 9/11 and other security concerns steadily carved away at access for ordinary Americans. When first lady Pat Nixon started the spring and fall garden tours in 1973, the White House itself still was open to visitors lining up for tours. These days, members of the public generally are asked to go through congressional offices for spots on White House tours. Families enter a lottery for a spot in the annual White House Easter egg roll.

For the garden tour weekends, the line wraps around the metal gates surrounding about 18 acres (7 hectares). A VIP group that came in at the head of Saturday's garden tour was allowed close enough to peer in the windows, getting in the backdrop of people's photos of a serene Rose Garden brightened by yellow flowers, and raising questions about just who was getting first gnaw on the big cheese. Rashida Holman-Jones, an administrator at the Washington-area SEED School, came through the gates with her 7-year-old twin girls, a 17-year-old student, Simona Weimer, and others. Weimer was great with the compost and pitching in overall at the school's garden, Holman-Jones said. Holman-Jones got involved with school gardening as a direct outgrowth of Michelle Obama's gardening-friendly drive for better nutrition for kids. At the time, "I wasn't into gardening," she said. "But I was really, really into Michelle Obama." In the White House gardens this past weekend, well-pruned boxwood-like plantings kept all the red, green, yellow, purple and orange, pollinator-friendly fall blooms in line. Topiary was big. Photos and plaques marked trees planted by past presidents, with Queen Elizabeth II, Hillary Clinton and others also part of the planting pedigrees. The oldest trees are identified as two southern magnolias, planted by Jackson. On Saturday, a man in a suit edged close to the White House exterior. A Secret Service agent looming alongside hip-high shrubbery told him to get back. Holman-Jones, a friend, and their beaming little girls pressed in for their photo. Weimer, from Ethiopia, got a photo for the folks back home, capturing her moment at the White House. □



# Small business group files suit over Biden student loan plan

By JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A small-business advocacy group has filed a new lawsuit seeking to block the Biden administration's efforts to forgive student loan debt for tens of millions of Americans — the latest legal challenge to the program.

The suit, filed Monday by the Job Creators Network Foundation, argues the Biden administration violated federal procedures by failing to seek public input on the program. It's one of a handful of lawsuits that have been filed by conservative business groups, attorneys and Republican lawmakers in recent weeks as the Biden administration tries to push forward with its plan to cancel billions in debt before November's midterm elections.

Elaine Parker, president of Job Creators Network Foundation, slammed the program as executive overreach and complained that it does nothing to address the root cause of rising debt: the "outrageous increase in college tuition that outpaces inflation every single year."

"This bailout is going to affect everyone in this country because of the mass size of the program," she said. "And everyone should



President Joe Biden speaks about student loan debt forgiveness in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Aug. 24, 2022, in Washington.

have the opportunity to provide their views to the government." She added: "These universities need to be held accountable for this student debt crisis."

The Job Creators Network Foundation has previously turned to the courts to try to block the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandate on businesses. It also sued Major League Baseball in 2001 for moving the All-Star game out of Atlanta over objections to changes to Georgia's voting laws. That lawsuit, which cited losses to

local businesses, was later dropped.

The new lawsuit is one of a growing number of legal challenges trying to halt the proposal laid out by President Joe Biden in late August to cancel up to \$20,000 in debt for certain borrowers. Six Republican-led states filed suit late last month, accusing the Biden administration of overstepping its executive powers, as did the Pacific Legal Foundation, a Sacramento, California, legal advocacy group. Their lawsuit, filed in federal court in In-

diana, calls the plan an illegal overreach that would increase state tax burdens for some Americans who get their debt forgiven.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Wisconsin last week dismissed a lawsuit from a local taxpayers group, the Brown County Taxpayers Association, that sought to block the program, ruling that the group didn't have standing to bring the lawsuit. The group had argued that Biden's order unlawfully circumvented Congress' power over spending and said the plan was discrimi-

natory because it sought to give particular help to borrowers of color.

The latest lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas against the U.S. Education Department and its secretary, Miguel Cardona, takes issue with how the plan was developed. It alleges the Biden administration violated the Administrative Procedure Act's notice-and-comment procedures. It also challenges the administration's legal justification for the program.

The suit includes two plaintiffs: one who does not qualify for debt forgiveness because the plan excludes commercially held loans that are not in default, and one who did not receive a Pell grant and is therefore entitled to less debt forgiveness under the plan.

"Behind closed doors, the Department promulgated a new Debt Forgiveness Program that will affect tens of millions of Americans and cost hundreds of billions of dollars," the lawsuit reads. "Instead of providing notice and seeking comment from the public, the Department hammered out the critical details of the Program in secret and with an eye toward securing debt forgiveness in time for the November election." □

Associated Press

## Some airport websites go offline; cause being investigated

By The Associated Press

The websites for some major U.S. airports went down early Monday in an apparent coordinated denial-of-service attack, although officials said flights were not affected.

The attacks followed a call by a shadowy group of pro-Russian hackers that calls itself Killnet for coordinated denial-of-service attacks on the targets. The group published a target list on its Telegram channel.

"We noticed this morning that the external website was down, and our IT and security people are in the

process of investigating," said Andrew Gobeil, a spokesman for Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. "There has been no impact on operations."

Portions of the public-facing side of the Los Angeles International Airport website were also disrupted, spokeswoman Victoria Spilabotte said. "No internal airport systems were compromised and there were no operational disruptions."

Spilabotte said the airport notified the FBI and the Transportation Security Administration, and the

airport's information-technology team was working to restore all services and investigate the cause.

Several other airports reported problems connecting to their websites and appeared to be functioning very slowly, including Chicago's O'Hare International Airport website, which was included on Killnet's target list.

The Chicago Department of Aviation said in a statement that websites for O'Hare and Midway Airport went offline early Monday but that no airport operations were affected.



Travelers walk through Terminal 1 at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, on Dec. 30, 2021.

Associated Press

Last week, a group of hackers claimed responsibility for cyberattacks

against state government websites across the country. □



# Search for victims done, Florida coast aims for lan recovery

By JAY REEVES

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) —

An army of 42,000 utility workers has restored electricity to more than 2.5 million businesses and homes in Florida since Hurricane Ian's onslaught, and Brenda Palmer's place is among them. By the government's count, she and her husband Ralph are part of a success story.

Yet turning on the lights in a wrecked mobile home that's likely beyond repair and reeks of dried river mud and mold isn't much solace to people who lost a lifetime of work in a few hours of wind, rain and rising seawater. Sorting through soggy old photos of her kids in the shaded ruins of her carport, Palmer couldn't help but cry.

"Everybody says, 'You can't save everything, mom,'" she said. "You know, it's my life. It's MY life. It's gone."

With the major search for victims over and a large swath of Florida's southwest coast settling in for the long slog of recovering from a rare direct hit by a major hurricane, residents are bracing for what will be months, if not years, of work. Mourning lost heirlooms will be hard; so will fights with insurance companies and



A man hauls debris away from a pizza restaurant that was badly damaged by Hurricane Ian at Fort Myers Beach, Fla., on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022.

decisions about what to do next.

Around the corner from the Palmers in Coach Light Manor, a retirement community of 179 mobile homes that was flooded by two creeks and a canal, a sad realization hit Susan Colby sometime between the first time she saw her soggy home after Ian and Sunday, when she was picking through its remains.

"I'm 86 years old and I'm homeless," she said. "It's just crazy. I mean, never in my life did I dream that I

wouldn't have a home. But it's gone."

Officials have blamed more than 100 deaths, most of them in southwest Florida, on Ian, a powerful Category 4 storm with 155 mph (249 kph) winds. It was the third-deadliest storm to hit the U.S. mainland this century behind Hurricane Katrina, which left about 1,400 people dead, and Hurricane Sandy, which killed 233 despite weakening to a tropical storm just before landfall.

At a makeshift memo-

rial set up in a downtown park along the Caloosahatchee River, Holly Harmon got tearful Monday while placing yellow roses beside photos of people lost to the storm. She said it was the first time she'd been able to visit because she had to wait for an inspector from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assess damage to her home.

"My heart is just hurting for so many of the people we've known and grown with and everything they've lost,"

Associated Press

said Harmon, 27.

While Gov. Ron DeSantis has heaped lavish praise on his administration for the early phases of the recovery, including getting running water and lights back on and erecting a temporary bridge to Pine Island, much more remains to be done. There are still mountains of debris to remove; it's hard to find a road that isn't lined with water-logged carpet, ruined furniture, moldy mattresses and pieces of homes.

On the road to Estero Island, scene of the worst damage to Fort Myers Beach, workers are using heavy machines with huge grapples to snatch debris out of swampy areas and deposit it into trucks. Boats of all sizes, from dinghies to huge shrimpers and charter fishing vessels, block roads and sit atop buildings.

DeSantis said at least some of the roadmap for the coming months in southwest Florida may come from the Florida Panhandle, where Category 5 Hurricane Michael wiped out Mexico Beach and much of Panama City in 2018. Panama City leaders will be brought in to offer advice on the cleanup, DeSantis told a weekend news conference. □

# Box covering Columbus statue sports colors of Italian flag

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A statue of Christopher Columbus in Philadelphia remains hidden by a plywood box while its fate is decided in the courts, but the box has now been painted with the colors of the Italian flag. City officials told the news station KYW that they painted the box covering the 146-year-old statue in south Philadelphia's Marconi Plaza with green, white and red stripes at the request of Councilmember Mark Squilla, who represents the district.

The new look came just in time for Columbus Day, the holiday now celebrated in Philadelphia and elsewhere as Indigenous Peo-

ples Day.

Thomas DeFino, one of the residents who gathered in the park Sunday afternoon

to celebrate their Italian American heritage with a parade and festival, welcomed the change, The



In this June 16, 2020 file photo, a city worker measures the statue of Christopher Columbus at Marconi Plaza in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

"They did it for us the Italians. It made us feel a little bit better," DeFino said. "It's to honor our heritage. They had to pull some strings to paint it."

While he appreciated the gesture, DeFino said, he noted that the statue was "still in a box."

"He should have been taken out at least for one day," he said.

Mabel Negrete, executive director of Indigenous Peoples' Day Philly Inc., told the Inquirer it was "unfortunate" that some Italian Americans in the city continued to celebrate Columbus. The painting of the box

in colors of the Italian flag, she said, "undermines intentions to move forward." Supporters in Philadelphia, a city with a deep Italian heritage, say they consider Columbus an emblem of that heritage.

Mayor Jim Kenney said Columbus was venerated for centuries as an explorer but had a "much more infamous" history, enslaving Indigenous people and imposing punishments such as severing limbs or even death.

After protests about racial injustice began in June 2020 and some focused on the statue, Kenney ordered its removal, calling it a matter of public safety. □



# Dutch activists sue government over assisted suicide

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands**

**(AP)** — Activists calling for the decriminalization of assisted suicide in the Netherlands took the Dutch government to court Monday, arguing that its ban on helping a person end their life breaches human rights. The case at The Hague District Court is the latest legal battle in a long-running debate around end-of-life issues in the country that in 2002 became the first in the world to pass a law that decriminalized euthanasia. A group called Cooperative Last Will asked the court to declare that the Dutch state is “acting unlawfully by denying its citizens the right to die with dignity under their own control.”

Its chairman, Jos van Wijk, said he wants the Netherlands to again take a leading role in legislation that governs people's lives.

“The Netherlands has been a trailblazer when it comes to abortion, when it comes to same-sex marriage and when it comes to euthanasia legislation. And now we are once again a trailblazer with regard to your own control over the end of life,” he said.

Euthanasia involves doc-



**Campaigners take their hat off in a show of respect for people who took their own lives in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, Oct. 10, 2022, where they calling for the decriminalization of assisted suicide in the Netherlands took the Dutch state to court, arguing its ban breaches human rights norms.**

tors under strict conditions actively killing patients with an injection of drugs. In assisted dying, patients are provided with a lethal substance that they take themselves. Cooperative Last Will, which says it has nearly 30,000 members, wants the case to force a change in the Dutch law to decriminalize assistance for people who want to take their own life at a time of

their choosing and for a lethal substance to be made available under strict conditions. The Dutch government argues that many people who want to end their lives can make use of the existing euthanasia law. “However, the state is not obliged and that is what this is all about to facilitate assisted suicide, let alone allow it under all circumstances,” government

lawyer Erik Koppe told a three-judge panel.

Lawyers for the cooperative argued that the European Court of Human Rights enshrines a right to die at a time and place of a person's choosing. The government lawyers disputed that assertion.

“No right to die assisted by a third party or a public authority can be derived from the case law of the

European Court of Human Rights, or a right to assisted suicide,” Koppe said.

The court said it would issue a decision on Dec. 14.

Prosecutions for assisted suicide are rare in the Netherlands. The offense carries a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

Prosecutors last year charged Van Wijk with “participation in a criminal organization whose object is to commit and/or plan the crime of assisted suicide.”

Van Wijk, who denies the charges, told judges Monday that authorities in the Netherlands enforce and uphold the ban to the extent that witnesses and next of kin are “intimidated and criminalized.”

He said the strict enforcement of the ban and the prohibition on making a deadly substance available “are measures that we say should be organized in another way in a civilized society.”

As the hearing ended, one plaintiff, Marion van Gerrevink, told the court that she found the body of her 21-year-old son Rob after he hanged himself in 2010.

“I still suffer daily from the feeling that I abandoned my son. □

Associated Press

# U.S. warns Hong Kong against helping sanctioned individuals

**HONG KONG (AP)** — The U.S. warned Hong Kong on Monday that its status as a financial center could be affected if it acts as a safe haven for sanctioned individuals, days after a luxury yacht connected to a sanctioned Russian tycoon docked in the city.

“The possible use of Hong Kong as a safe haven by individuals evading sanctions from multiple jurisdictions further calls into question the transparency of the business environment,” said a U.S. State Department spokesperson in a statement.

The State Department spokesperson also said the city's reputation as a financial center “depends on its

adherence to international laws and standards.”

The statement came days after the \$500-million superyacht Nord, allegedly owned by Russian tycoon Alexey Mordashov, docked in Hong Kong's harbor on Wednesday following a week-long journey from the Russian city of Vladivostok. Mordashov, who is believed to have close ties to Russian president Vladimir Putin, was sanctioned by the U.S., U.K. and the European Union in February after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

He is one of Russia's richest men with an estimated wealth of about \$18 billion, as well as the main shareholder and chairman of Severstal, Russia's largest

steel and mining company. Mordashov has attempted to challenge the sanctions against him in European courts.

Hong Kong's marine authorities have said they do not implement “unilateral sanctions imposed by other jurisdictions,” even though it implements and enforces sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

Meanwhile, U.S. and European authorities have seized over a dozen yachts belonging to sanctioned Russian tycoons to prevent them from sailing to other ports that are not affected by the sanctions.

Russian oligarchs have begun docking their yachts

at ports in places like Turkey, which has maintained diplomatic ties with Russia since the war began.

The Nord measures 141.6

meters (464.6 feet), has two helipads, a swimming pool and 20 cabins. The yacht is currently sailing under a Russian flag. □



**In this image taken from video footage run by TVB, the megayacht Nord, left, worth over \$500 million, is seen off Hong Kong Island outside Victoria Harbour on Oct. 7, 2022.**

Associated Press



# U.N. mulls quick foreign troop deployment to ease Haiti crisis

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The United Nations Security Council was evaluating options including the immediate activation of foreign troops to help free Haiti from the grip of gangs that has caused a scarcity of fuel, water and other basic supplies.

Such a force would “remove the threat posed by armed gangs and provide immediate protection to critical infrastructure and services,” as well as secure the “free movement of water, fuel, food and medical supplies from main ports and airports to communities and health care facilities,” according to a letter U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres submitted to the council on Sunday.

The letter, which was seen by The Associated Press and has not been made public, said one or several member states would deploy the force to help Haiti’s National Police.

It also states the secretary-general may deploy “additional U.N. capacities to support a ceasefire or humanitarian arrangements.”



Protesters are dispersed by tear gas thrown by the police during a demonstration to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry in the Petion-Ville area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

However, the letter notes that “a return to a more robust United Nations engagement in the form of peacekeeping remains a last resort if no decisive action is urgently taken by the international community in line with the outlined options and national law enforcement capacity proves unable to reverse the dete-

riorating security situation.” The letter was submitted after Haiti Prime Minister Ariel Henry and 18 high-ranking officials requested from international partners “the immediate deployment of a specialized armed force, in sufficient quantity,” to stop the “criminal actions” of armed gangs across the country.

The request comes nearly a month after one of Haiti’s most powerful gangs seized control of a key fuel terminal in the capital of Port-au-Prince, where some 10 million gallons of diesel and gasoline and more than 800,000 gallons of kerosene are stored.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators also have bar-

ricaded streets in Port-au-Prince and other major cities in recent weeks, preventing the flow of goods and traffic as part of an ongoing protest against a spike in the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

Gas stations and schools are closed, while banks and grocery stores are operating on a limited schedule.

Protesters are demanding the resignation of Henry, who announced in early September that his administration could no longer afford to subsidize fuel.

The deepening paralysis has caused supplies of fuel, water and other basic goods to dwindle amid a cholera outbreak that has killed several people and sickened dozens of others, with health officials warning that the situation could worsen. On Sunday, Haitian senators signed a document demanding that Henry’s “de facto government” defer its request for deployment of foreign troops, saying it is illegal under local laws.

A spokesman for Henry could not be immediately reached for comment. □



Mexico’s Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard speaks during a news conference after the High-Level Economic Dialogue Second Annual Meeting in Mexico City, Monday, Sept. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The Mexican government filed another lawsuit Monday against U.S. companies it claims are responsible for the flow of illegal weapons into Mexico.

The first lawsuit, which was recently dismissed, targeted U.S. gun manufacturers.

The second, which Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said was filed in Arizona Monday, appears to target gun dealers.

“We are suing them because clearly there is a pattern, we contend that it is obvious that there is weapons trafficking and that it is

## Mexico files 2nd lawsuit against arms dealers in U.S.

known that these guns are going to our country,” Ebrard said.

Ebrard promised last week the new lawsuit would target gun shops or dealers in U.S. border states who sell guns to “straw” purchasers who pass them on to smugglers, who then take the weapons into Mexico.

Ebrard said about 60% of the weapons seized in Mexico in recent years were believed to have been sold in 10 U.S. counties, mostly along the border. Mexico has very strict restrictions on weapon possession, but drug cartel violence has cost hundreds of thousands of lives in the country in recent years.

“We are going to show that many of these out-

lets where they sell these products in these counties I mentioned, are dealing with straw purchasers, and criminal charges have to be brought,” Ebrard said last week in an appearance before the Mexican Senate.

A recently enacted U.S. law defines straw purchasing as a crime, and sets out sentences of as much as 15 to 25 years if the offense is related to drug trafficking. The announcement comes several days after a U.S. federal judge dismissed Mexico’s first lawsuit against U.S. gun manufacturers. Ebrard said Mexico would appeal that decision.

The judge ruled Mexico’s claims did not overcome the broad protection pro-

vided to gun manufacturers by the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act passed in 2005.

The law shields gun manufacturers from damages “resulting from the criminal or unlawful misuse” of a firearm.

Mexico was seeking at least \$10 billion in compensation, but legal experts had viewed the lawsuit as a long shot.

The Mexican government estimates 70% of the weapons trafficked into Mexico come from the U.S., according to the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

It said that in 2019 alone, at least 17,000 homicides in Mexico were linked to trafficked weapons. □



## During the 52nd General Assembly of OEA: Prime minister appealed for joint attention for the crisis in Venezuela

**ORANJESTAD – Last week, on request of the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Aruban Prime Minister, Evelyn Wever-Croes represented the Kingdom in Lima, Peru for the 52nd General Assembly of the Organization for American States, OEA. During the General Assembly, various topics were discussed at the governmental level.**

### Migration crisis

One very crucial topic is Venezuela, and the issue of the migration crisis due to the situation in Venezuela, because of a lot of violations of human rights in Venezuela, and the large amount of people who are trying to leave Venezuela. Prime Minister Wever-Croes on this topic informed about the impact of this migration crisis on Aruba and made an appeal for the countries to deal with this, being a very serious issue, and to deal with it together.

Other participating countries also expressed concern regarding this topic. Chancellor of Panama also commented that Panama sees a lot of suffering among people who leave Venezuela and try to arrive to the United States via Panama. He also made a dramatic appeal for the countries to work together to help those who want to leave Venezuela, so that they don't have to risk their lives in dangerous situations without knowing.

### Disinformation campaign

She also elaborated on the disinformation campaign to convince Venezuelans to leave their country, making it seem as if it is very easy while not informing how dangerous it can be. This is also the case for those who want to cross the sea to come to Aruba without knowing that it is extremely dangerous.

### Human rights

The topic of human rights in Venezuela itself received a

lot of attention. Attending countries commented that they cannot accept that violations of human rights are taking place in such a nearby country.

### Sanctions

For Aruba itself, the prime minister spoke with representatives from various countries on the topic of sanctions imposed on Venezuela. Venezuela has heavy fuel oil that is a lot cheaper, for the crude oil that is necessary for WEB – the energy generating company of Aruba – to generate electricity. If Aruba can import the heavy fuel oil from Venezuela for WEB, the price of electricity and water on the island would go down. However, there are sanctions and this prevents imports from Venezuela.

"During my meetings with representatives from the American government, I made an appeal to help us reach this cheaper oil from Venezuela", Wever-Croes said.

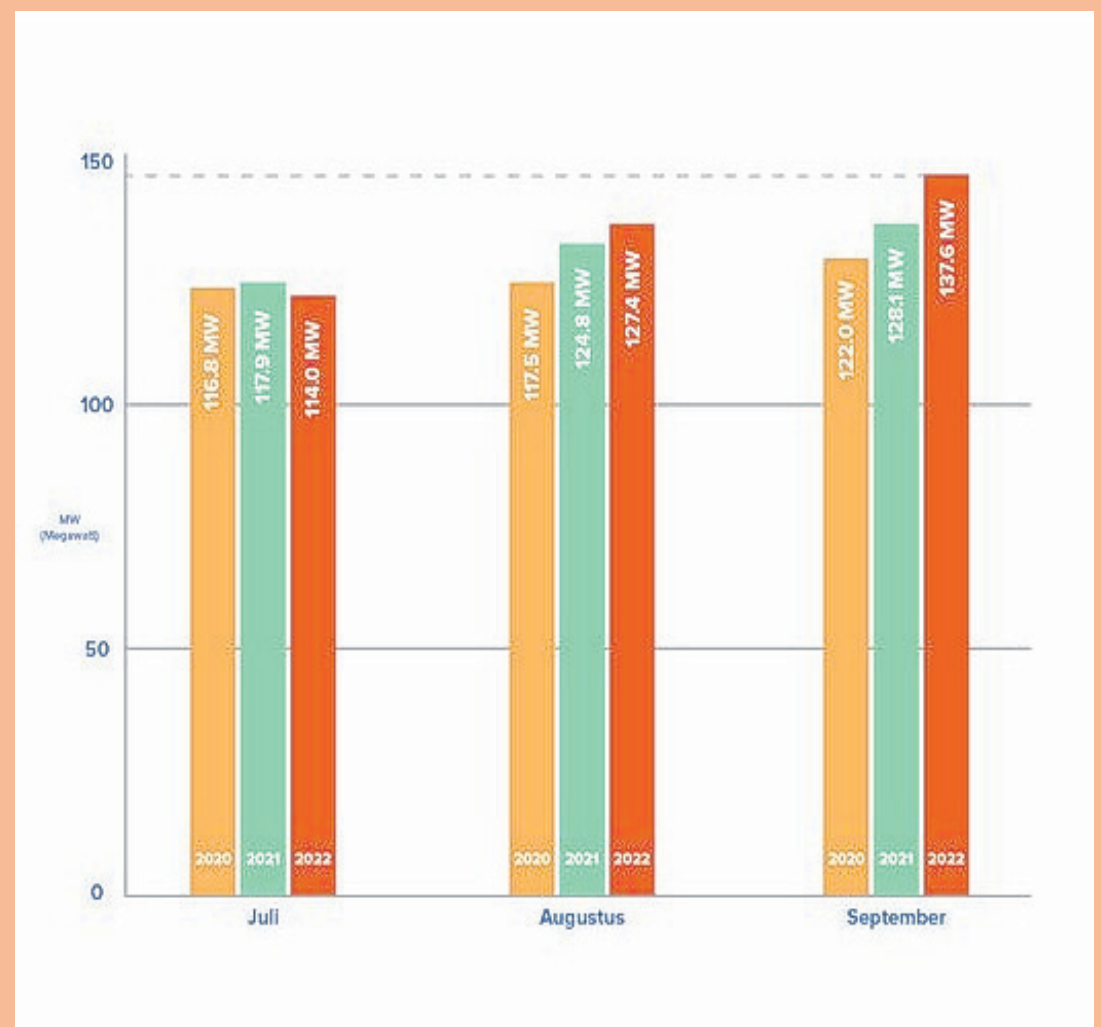
On request from minister of Energy, Glenbert Croes, the Prime Minister held a dialogue also with the Chancellor from Ecuador to see if we can receive cheaper heavy fuel oil from Ecuador, because despite the Venezuelan oil being cheaper, the sanctions prevent imports from Venezuela. "For this reason I tried to open the way for minister Glenbert Croes to continue with meetings and negotiations", she said.

"The topic of Venezuela had the attention of all participating countries during the 52nd General Assembly of OEA, and the countries agreed to continue deliberating on this topic together. Venezuela is a country very near to us with family and friendly bonds that are very strong, and only by working together we can find a solution to all existing challenges and limitations", the Prime Minister commented. □



### NV Elmar:

## Energy consumption in Aruba during September 2021 was a never before seen record



**ORANJESTAD – Every year during the month of September, energy consumption in Aruba reaches its peak for the year. However, the electricity company of Aruba, NV Elmar indicated that last month broke every record.**

Factors conducting to this record are, among other things, the excessive heat which causes the compressor of air conditioning units to increase energy consumption, in order to regulate and reach

the desired temperatures to which the user is accustomed, and a longer use of the air conditioning units to provide relief from the heat. This all contributes to higher energy consumption.

"Be more mindful of energy consumption. Take a moment every day to turn off electronic appliances that are not being used or do not need to be turned on", the company recommended. □



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## Nikkei Sushi Bar, not just a sushi bar



**Nikkei is a name commonly used in Japan to refer to people of Japanese ancestry that are living abroad as citizens of other countries. It refers to the mix of cuisine and culture of the Japanese migrants in Peru. In time, successive generations created the cuisine that is generally known as Nikkei.**

### It's not just sushi

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# Aruba Badminton competing at the XII South American Games Asunción 2022

The Aruba badminton selection competed at the XII South American Games Asunción 2022 that is taking place between 1-15 October.

Leyenne Schairer competed at the Women Singles and won the first round against home country Paraguay in two sets. The second round was an exciting game against Guyana. The first set was lost with a very tight score, whereafter in the second set the opponent managed to win with a larger score advancement.

Mackie Lu competed at the Men Singles and won the first round against Bolivia with conviction. In the second round he lost against the third-seeded player from Peru. Together Leyenne and Mackie played the Mixed Doubles against Ecuador which they closely lost in three sets.

The Aruba Badminton Federation congratulates both Leyenne and Mackie for their results, for showing big progress in both technical and tactical performance since their debut last year at the Cali Valle 2021 Junior Pan American Games.

This was the second time that Aruba badminton participated at a continental multi-sport event. The Aruba badminton selection consists of players that started in the selection only two years ago. This amazing development for Aruba Badminton has been made possible with the support of the Comité Olímpico Arubano, Badminton Pan America, the Regional Training Center in Eindhoven and our local training program in Aruba. □

[source: Aruba Badminton Federation]

[Photo credits: Comité Olímpico Arubano]





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## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



**SAN NICOLAS—** At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from

one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and

renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed,



San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art



Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



## Prime minister, Evelyn Wever-Croes: House Ecury as KLM Huisje 103 is proof of the close and fruitful relationship between KLM and Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Last week-end there was a very special moment for Aruba. In the context of the celebration of 103rd anniversary of KLM, House Ecury of Aruba was selected to become a KLM huisje (KLM miniature house). This is proof of the close and fruitful relationship that exists between KLM and Aruba. Prime minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever-Croes on this occasion congratulated Mrs. Marjan Rintel, who was appointed as the new CEO for the airline.

Each year that KLM celebrates another anniversary, it is known that they introduce a Delft Blue 'KLM huisje'. This year, Aruban monument 'Cas Ecury' (House Ecury) has the privilege of being chosen to be made into a miniature Delft Blue house.

The KLM Delft Blue Houses are miniature replica houses from the Netherlands made in porcelain. Aruba

became the second country after Curaçao with a miniature house that is not a replica from the Netherlands, surely an honor.

The miniature houses began being made in 1952 and are given as a gift to travelers who are members of KLM around the world. The KLM miniature houses are always replicas of houses or buildings with historical interest and special architecture. During the flights, KLM shares more than 800,000 miniature houses per year to their members and passengers who just got married or are celebrating an anniversary.

Now, the latest edition which is the home of the parents of Mr. Boy Ecury, who is our national hero from World War II, will also be shared with people around the world.

"As we continue recovering from the Covid crisis, we are proud of the numbers of



the visitors remains high, Aruba remains committed to progress each day, through stimulating sustainable development for the entire island. This is a commitment shared with KLM. Considering this, it is a great moment to recognize and at the same time be proud that a house and a family that was instrumental for Aruba's tourism and development of aviation was chosen for the 103rd anniversary of KLM, the Prime Minister commented.

Prime Minister Wever-Croes added that as a mother and in the name of parents in Aruba, she thanks KLM for connecting parents with their children who are studying in the Netherlands. "This historical moment is important to remind us of the value of the relationship with KLM and how much KLM means to our beautiful island, and so continue reflecting on how to maintain this relationship for many more years."

Finalizing, in the name of the government of Aruba, the Prime Minister together with the other ministers from the Wever-Croes II Cabinet congratulated the entire KLM team and wished them many years of good cooperation. □

the touristic global market and the European market. Numbers from the Netherlands particularly are at a higher level compared to 2019. This simply could not have been possible without the continuous support and cooperation when working with KLM. Through the partnership with KLM we built the European market together, with an annual average of 4 percent from the period 2011 until 2021", Prime Minister Wever-Croes explained.

Aruba maintains the vision to attract high value visitors, and also to recover visitors who have already visited Aruba. But also to receive new visitors who choose Aruba to enjoy an island that is safe, high quality beaches, hospitality, kind people, attractions, restaurants, natural wonders and surely, high level service.

While it is not easy to ensure that the quality of experience that is given to





## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

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Yesterday's answer

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10-11

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

V ' N K L D Q Y M V Q V E X V C Y

H L G Q M H F X G X O F X G X Y G X

L B O L J X G K . — Q . N .

N L C O D L N X G W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN SOMEONE ASKS IF YOU'D LIKE CAKE OR PIE, WHY NOT SAY YOU WANT CAKE AND PIE? LISA LOEB

## Liz Weston: How to spot a great 401(k)

By LIZ WESTON OF NerdWallet

Any 401(k) can help you save for retirement. A great 401(k) allows you to save a whole lot more.

The difference between a mediocre plan and a great one could translate into tens of thousands of dollars in future retirement money. Plus, a 401(k)'s quality can show how serious a company is about attracting and retaining good workers. That's not to say you should leave or turn down a job if it doesn't offer a great 401(k). But knowing how to spot a best-in-class retirement plan can help you evaluate job offers, negotiate a raise to compensate for what you're missing and perhaps encourage your employer to make its plan better. Here are three features of great 401(k)s.

### A GREAT 401(K) DOESN'T MAKE YOU WAIT TO START SAVING

A good 401(k) comes with a company match, plenty of low-cost investment options and low fees. A great 401(k) doesn't make you wait to take advantage of those features.

Many plans now allow participants to begin contributions immediately, with no waiting period. Others



In this Nov. 15, 2017, file photo, new \$1 bills are cut and stacked at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington.

Associated Press

have waiting periods of one to six months. Some require people to wait a full year the maximum allowed under federal law and that delay can be expensive for workers.

Let's say you're 25, earning \$50,000 a year and able to contribute 10% of your pay. The \$5,000 you can't contribute the first year, plus a typical \$1,500 match you wouldn't earn, could mean about \$106,000 less in your retirement account by the time you're 65, assuming 7% average annual returns. If you change jobs in the future—as you almost certainly will—every waiting period you encounter could compound the damage.

### A GREAT 401(K) LETS YOU KEEP THE MATCH

Plans offer a number of different matching formulas, with some of the most common being 50% of the first 6% of earnings and 100% of the first 3% to 6% of pay. The more generous the match, the better for participants to a point. Many plans have long vesting periods for employer contributions. You might not have a right to any matching funds until you've worked for the company for three years, for example. After you hit the three-year mark, you would own 100% of any match you've earned and 100% of any future matches. □

## Amazon to invest \$972M for electric vans, trucks in Europe

By HALELUYA HADERO  
AP Business Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon

said Monday it will invest 1 billion euros (\$972.1 million) to add thousands of more

electric vans, long-haul trucks and cargo bikes to its delivery network in Europe. The investment would grow the number of electric delivery vans the company has in Europe from roughly 3,000 to 10,000 by 2025, the Seattle-based retail giant said in an announcement on its website.

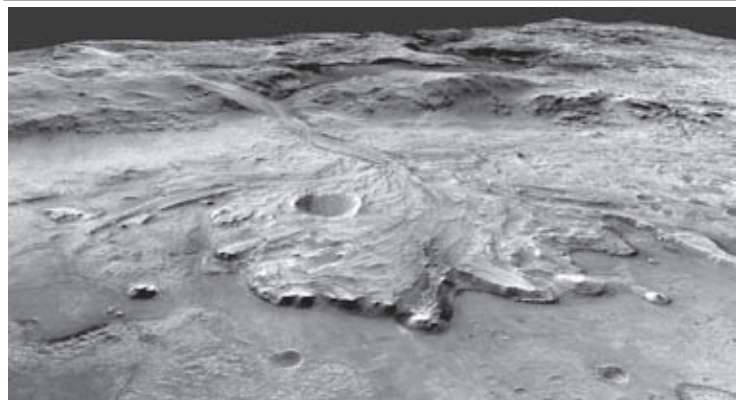
With the investment, Amazon is also hoping to purchase more than 1,500 electric trucks, up from five in the United Kingdom. To accommodate those vehicles, the company said it will build hundreds of fast chargers across its European facilities that can charge the vehicles in roughly two hours. □



An Amazon Prime logo appears on the side of a delivery van as it departs an Amazon Warehouse location in Dedham, Mass., Oct. 1, 2020.

Associated Press





This image made available by NASA shows the Jezero Crater area on the planet Mars, captured by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

Associated Press

## Underground microbes may have swarmed ancient Mars

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.**

**(AP)** — Ancient Mars may have had an environment capable of harboring an underground world teeming with microscopic organisms, French scientists reported Monday.

But if they existed, these simple life forms would have altered the atmosphere so profoundly that they triggered a Martian Ice Age and snuffed themselves out, the researchers concluded.

The findings provide a bleak view of the ways of the cosmos. Life even simple life like microbes "might actually commonly cause its own demise," said the study's lead author, Boris Sauterey, now a post-doctoral researcher at Sorbonne University.

The results "are a bit gloomy, but I think they are also very stimulating," he said in an email. "They challenge us to rethink the way a biosphere and its planet interact."

In a study in the journal Nature Astronomy, Sauterey and his team said they used climate and terrain models to evaluate the habitability of the Martian crust some 4 billion years ago when the red planet was thought to be flush with water and much more hospitable than today.

They surmised that hydrogen-gobbling, methane-producing microbes might have flourished just be-

neath the surface back then, with several inches (a few tens of centimeters) of dirt, more than enough to protect them against harsh incoming radiation. Anywhere free of ice on Mars could have been swarming with these organisms, according to Sauterey, just as they did on early Earth. Early Mars' presumably moist, warm climate, however, would have been jeopardized by so much hydrogen sucked out of the thin, carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere, Sauterey said. As temperatures plunged by nearly minus-400 degrees Fahrenheit (minus-200 degrees Celsius), any organisms at or near the surface likely would have buried deeper in an attempt to survive. □

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RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

**Assistant Director**

**Xiomara Arends**

**Editors**

**Pilar Flores**

**Richard Brooks**

**Angenette Figueroa**

**Sales**

**Mark Gomes**

**Sulaika Croes**

**Classifieds**

**classified@cspnv.com**

**Distribution and Collection**

**accounting@bondia.com**

**Social / Website**

**Juan Luis Pinto**

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# Rita Wilson creates conversations with '70s-era duets

By KRISTIN M. HALL

AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

When actor and singer Rita Wilson was a young girl, she and her Greek mother would bond over listening to songs on the radio, especially '70s singer-songwriters.

Wilson's mother would engage her in conversation about the meanings of the songs and what the artist was trying to say, sometimes giving her daughter a new way to think about lyrics.

"I think hearing songs from someone else's perspective and then hearing it differently is always a great way to hear a song and also says how powerful it is with music because we're all interpreting them in our own ways," said Wilson.

Now Wilson is doing just that with her favorite '70s songs and turning them into duets for her new record "Rita Wilson Now & Forever: Duets." Her musical collaborators include Willie Nelson, Smokey Robinson, Keith Urban, Leslie Odom Jr., Jackson Browne, Tim McGraw, Elvis Costello and many more.

She talked to The Associated Press about creating a conversation with her duet partners, working with artists who she loved and bridging her love of music and acting. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP: Most of these songs were not originally recorded as duets. Why did you want to transform them in that way?**

**WILSON:** Well, I love these songs and I revere the songwriters who wrote them and the original artists who recorded them. And when songs are great the way these are, I didn't want to mess with them too much. I didn't want to reinvent the melody or reinvent the tempo. I wanted to stay connected to that emotional reaction I had when I heard them when I was younger. So I thought, 'All right, then what makes this different and what makes it fresh?' And when I started thinking about my mom



Actress/singer Rita Wilson poses for a portrait, Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021, in Los Angeles to promote her album "Rita Wilson Now & Forever: Duets."

Associated Press

and those connections and well, maybe this is people talking to each other, maybe there's a conversation here that could be had. So in the initial let's call them the bag of songs there were so many and we just threw in everything that we loved. My co-producer is Matt Rawlings, an amazing pianist, arranger, orchestrator. He's an incredible musician. So we just put everything that we loved in there and as we started thinking about, all right, but what are these songs saying? Because some songs are just great songs, but is there really an opportunity for a duet here?"

**AP: How many of these singers did you know well already and how many were like a cold call?**

**WILSON:** I didn't know a lot of people, had maybe met some people in passing. I didn't know Willie Nelson at all. But Matt Rawlings, my co-producer, had produced and won Grammys with Willie Nelson's Gershwin album and his Sinatra album. So he reached out

to Willie, and I reached out to Jackson Browne because we had done that song live before together, and we really enjoyed doing that song together, "Let It Be Me." Josh Groban, I had met, didn't really know that well, but I could hear his voice on that, on "Songbird." I could just hear it. And it was so cool because he said, "Thank you for asking me to do this. No one ever asks me to sing like this." Because his audience has an expectation of his incredible instrument and voice. And he can blow the roof off something. And I think he was intrigued by singing in a more intimate way.

**AP: Did you and Matt give the duet partners creative freedom to sing their own way?**

**WILSON:** When Elvis Costello sang on "Fire," the Bruce Springsteen song, I was so blown away. He came in and he had this way of singing "fire" that was unlike anything I'd ever heard. Normally it goes, "and when we kiss, ooh, fire."

Right? He brought in to the word "kiss" every ounce of desire, longing, desperation, frustration. I mean, you just hear it in his voice and there's no, "ooh," it's just "kiss." And then "fire" is like an exclamation point, like, I can't take it anymore! That I just loved. It was exhilarating. I still talk about it. I still get goose bumps on that.

**AP: You've been putting out albums since 2012, but what made you decide to pursue songwriting and singing on top of your acting career?**

**WILSON:** When I started songwriting, it felt so wildly creative to me in a way that I had not been able to experience as an actor because I kept playing the same roles over and over again... I feel like I've said

this before, but I feel like I've exhausted the canon of a warm, kind, nurturing mother, sister, wife, daughter, you know? There's only so many ways that character can be written and you get tired of it... And creatively, songwriting is such an intimate process that became so satisfying that I felt like I had found a creative home for myself that I could do and not have to wait on other people to do it. Meaning that if you're producing a movie, sometimes that takes years. And if you're in a movie, you have control of one aspect of your performance, but then it's out of your hands. So it enabled me to stay in that creative conversation and in a very connected way. □

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# Panthers fire Matt Rhule after 1-4 start; Wilks takes over

By STEVE REED  
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

The Carolina Panthers fired coach Matt Rhule on Monday, ending the former Baylor coach's tenure five games into his third losing season.

Rhule, the first NFL coach to be fired this season, went 11-27 with Carolina and leaves with roughly \$40 million remaining on the seven-year, guaranteed \$62 million contract he signed in 2020. The Panthers fell to 1-4 with Sunday's 37-15 home loss to San Francisco as 49ers fans made Bank of America Stadium their East Coast home.

Defensive pass game coordinator and secondary coach Steve Wilks will serve as interim coach for the rest of the season. The 53-year-old Wilks spent one year as Arizona's coach in 2018, going 3-13.

The Panthers also fired two of Rhule's longtime assistants, defensive coordinator Phil Snow and assistant special teams coach Ed Foley, according to a person familiar with the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity on Monday because the moves had not been announced. Both coaches



Carolina Panthers head coach Matt Rhule speaks during a news conference after their loss against the San Francisco 49ers during an NFL football game on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

previously worked for Rhule at Temple and Baylor. Rhule did not immediately respond to voice and text messages on Monday.

David Tepper, the second-wealthiest owner in the NFL, lured the 47-year-old Rhule away from Baylor with a deal that was notable for its length and dollar value for a rookie NFL coach. Tepper will have to pay out the rest of the deal unless Rhule takes another job. In that case, the money he makes will count against what he's owed by the Panthers.

Tepper was initially pa-

tient with Rhule following Sunday's loss, but grew increasingly agitated and changed his mind on Monday.

Tepper planned to address the media later Monday.

Rhule's teams went 5-11 in 2020 and 5-12 last year. The Panthers hoped Rhule could turn things around in his third year as he did at Baylor and at Temple before that. The team had constant turnover at quarterback under Rhule, with Teddy Bridgewater as the starter in 2020 and Sam Darnold and Cam Newton

getting starts last year.

The Panthers traded for Baker Mayfield this off-season. But the 2018 No. 1 overall draft pick has been awful, ranking last in the NFL in ESPN's total quarterback rating. Mayfield has completed 54.9% of his passes and is averaging fewer than 200 yards passing per game with four touchdowns and four interceptions.

The poor play at the game's most important position put unsustainable pressure on Carolina's defense. Under Rhule, the Panthers were

1-27 when allowing an opponent to score 17 or more points.

Rhule was unpopular when the season began and fans targeted him even more after the Panthers lost their season opener to the Cleveland Browns in what was dubbed the "Baker Bowl." Chants of "Fire Rhule!" got louder with each game at home, where the Panthers are 1-3. Mayfield was one of several players who spoke out in support of Rhule.

"We're fine in the locker room when it comes to that," Mayfield said. "There are a lot of plays that we just have to flat-out make and he can't do that. He can't go make plays for us. He can't do the execution for us."

This marks the second time in four years Tepper has fired a coach during the season. He let go of Ron Rivera, the winningest coach in franchise history, with four games left in 2019 with the Panthers at 5-7.

The Panthers have not been to the playoffs since 2017 the year before Tepper took over and have not won a playoff game since winning the NFC championship in 2015 to reach the franchise's second Super Bowl. □

## Johnson has \$30 million year and growing in LIV Golf

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

Dustin Johnson needed only six events to have a \$30 million year, and he still has two events left with Saudi-funded LIV Golf.

Even though he failed to finish in the top 10 for the first time, Johnson clinched the inaugural LIV Golf Individual Championship.

The two-time major champion already has earned \$12,758,600 \$3 million of that from four team victories in the LIV Golf Invitational series with one individual title.

Winning the season points title comes with an \$18 million bonus.

Johnson has 121 points going into the LIV Golf Invitational-Jeddah event this week in Saudi Arabia. He has a 42-point lead over Branden Grace, who had to withdraw last week because of an injury. The winner of each event gets 40 points.

Johnson was the most significant player Greg Norman signed for the rival league. He held the No. 1 ranking longer than any other player since Tiger Woods and had said in February he would stick with the PGA Tour until changing his mind in June.

The \$30 million is in addition to the signing fee to join

LIV Golf, which The Daily Telegraph reported to be about \$125 million over four years.

Johnson won the Boston event in a playoff. He tied for second in the LIV events at Trump Bedminster in New Jersey and outside Chicago.

The LIV Golf events feature \$25 million in total prize money \$20 million for the individual competition, with the winner getting \$4 million.

Johnson's most lucrative year on the course on the PGA Tour was in 2020, when he captured the FedEx Cup and its \$15 million bonus and earned just over \$5



Dustin Johnson from Florida USA plays a shot on the 5th hole during LIV Golf Invitational Bangkok 2022 at Stonehill Golf Club in Pathum Thani, Thailand, Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

million in regular prize money. He played 14 times that season, which lost nearly three months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Greg Norman, the CEO and commissioner of LIV Golf, referred to the 38-year-old Johnson as the "corner-

stone" of the league.

"He has more than lived up to his billing," Norman said. After the seventh event in Saudi Arabia, LIV Golf wraps up its season with a \$50 million bonanza at Trump Doral near Miami for team competition. □



# MLB Playoffs: Judge, Verlander join fray as 8 teams remain

By **DAVID BRANDT**  
AP Sports Writer

Major League Baseball's first foray into a best-of-three wild-card round provided its share of memorable moments.

A 15-inning, 432-pitch game. A seven-run comeback win. Joe Musgrove's ears.

Now it's on to the division series, which is business as usual with a best-of-five format. The four matchups are Braves-Phillies, Padres-Dodgers, Mariners-Astros and Guardians-Yankees and all of them begin Tuesday.

The Astros, Yankees, Braves and Dodgers got to rest and watch the wild-card drama round from home, thanks to superior regular season records. Now they'll



**Philadelphia Phillies interim manager Rob Thomson removes his cap during baseball practice Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022, in St. Louis.**  
Associated Press

bring their own storylines to the postseason stage.

Rested Yankees slugger Aaron Judge — who set the AL record with 62 hom-

ers this season — gets his chance to swat postseason dingers. Jose Altuve, Justin Verlander and the Astros bring their ample postsea-

son experience to the mix. The Dodgers and their loaded lineup of Mookie Betts, Trea Turner and Freddie Freeman take the field. Then there's the defending World Series champion Braves, who rallied to win the NL East in the final days of the regular season and look formidable once again.

Some of the game's biggest stars are already headed home after the wild-card round: Max Scherzer, Pete Alonso and the Mets are gone after a 101-win season. The feel-good story of Cardinals veteran stars Albert Pujols and Yadier Molina is over partly because of a leaky bullpen. The Blue Jays and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. were bounced by a stunning Mariners comeback.

After the division series wrap up, the league championship series and World Series will be in a best-of-seven format. The LCS is scheduled to begin on Oct. 18 while the World Series starts Oct. 28.

## HOW WAS THE NEW WILD CARD FORMAT?

MLB's switch to a bulked-up, 12-team bracket and a best-of-three wild-card round — instead of the one-game, sudden death format that had been in place since 2012 — seemed to provide the balance the sport was seeking.

"It's definitely interesting," Phillies slugger Kyle Schwarber said. "You know, I think it's good for teams that we can get extra teams in there, and guys are going to be battling throughout the whole year. It's not just that do-or-die. But still, it's also a round of urgency, too, because it's two wins and you're on to the next round."

"So there's a sense of urgency in every single game, which I think is really good."

The Guardians were one of the teams that didn't need three games in the wild-card round to advance, sweeping the Rays with two wins. But even after winning the first game, Guardians manager Terry Francona seemed pleased

with the new format.

"I think it's good. I think it's better," Francona said. "I think it's a more true outcome. But then again, it might hurt us. I hope it doesn't. Just think: you play 162 and then you play one and go home. That's rough. I think this is good for the fans. I think it's a better measure in competitive balance than a one-game play-in."

## WHY DID THE PLAYOFFS START LATE?

October's postseason festivities will bleed into November before a champion is crowned.

That's mostly because of the sport's labor strife that resulted in a work stoppage over the winter. It delayed the beginning of spring training and pushed the regular season back about a week. Baseball players and owners salvaged the usual 162-game season, but to do that, they had to move opening day from March 31 to April 7.

Some of the games originally scheduled for the first week of the season were moved to the end, meaning a season that was originally scheduled to end on Oct. 2 instead ended on Oct. 5.

## WHO ARE THE FAVORITES?

Great question.

The Dodgers have been dominant all season with a lineup that includes Betts, Turner and Freeman. They won 111 games for one of the best seasons in franchise history.

Over in the American League, the Houston Astros topped 100 wins as well. They've got a loaded lineup that includes Altuve, Alex Bregman and Yordan Alvarez, along with Verlander, the potential AL Cy Young winner.

The Yankees were cruising for much of the season — led by Judge's huge year — but haven't played as well since the All-Star break. Then there's the defending World Series champion Braves, who still have a loaded lineup that includes Austin Riley, Dansby Swanson, Michael Harris, Matt Olson and Ronald Acuña Jr. □

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